

**REMARKS**

Claims 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The amendments to the claims are believed to have rectified the basis for the rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11-20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Keller et al. "A Bookmarking Service for Organizing and Sharing URLs" (hereinafter Keller). Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller.

Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims have made the claims distinguishable from Keller and the remaining art of record. Per the amendment, limitations have been added to claims 1 and 20 to require that an identity of the creator of the generated link(s) in a category is displayed to a second user upon display of the links to the second user. Further, the second user is allowed to send an information transmittal to the creator of the link(s). Thus, as claimed, the present invention not only allows users to find relevant sites but also find and contact people with similar interests.


Neither Keller nor the other art of record disclose or teach displaying the identity of the creator of the categorized and ranked link, and allowing another user to contact the creator of the link. Nowhere in these references is disclosure of a user's identity to another user discussed. Because no such teaching is found in the prior art of record, it is submitted that the new limitations have distinguished claims 1 and 20 from the prior art of record, and they are now patentable.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to require that the site be ranked in the category according to a type of ranking based on the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the links, and/or polling. A user is allowed to specify the type of ranking applied to the category, and the links in the category are displayed according to the user-selected type of ranking.

Claim 9 adds the additional limitation that the information transmittal be an electronic mail message and/or an instant message. Similarly, claim 10 requires that a mode of communication be associated with the category, as opposed to the link, where the mode of communication is a forum

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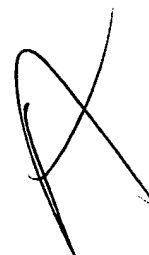


and/or a chat room. As mentioned above, the prior art of record does not teach or disclose allowing a second user to contact a creator of a link. It follows that these references do not suggest a mode for such user-to-user communication.

Regarding claim 11, limitations have been added to require that the site be ranked in the category according to a type of ranking based on at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the links, and polling. A user is allowed to specify the type of ranking applied to the category, and the links in the category are displayed according to the user-selected type of ranking. By allowing the user to select the way the links are organized, the claimed invention provides a more efficient and useful mechanism for assisting a user in finding a site of interest. Support for the amendment can be found in the first paragraph of p. 23 of the patent application as originally filed.

Claims 2-10 depend from the amended claim 1, and claims 12-19 depend from the amended claim 11. By virtue of their dependency from the amended claims 1 and 11, respectively, claims 2-10, and 12-19 are now also believed to be allowable.


New claim 21 has been added to vary the scope of the claims and clarify the present invention. All limitations are supported by the original disclosure including the specification, drawings and original claims. Therefore, no new matter has been added. The new claim is also believed to be allowable.



**CONCLUSION**

Claims 1-20 remain pending. New claim 21 has been added. Based upon the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early reconsideration and issuance of a patent are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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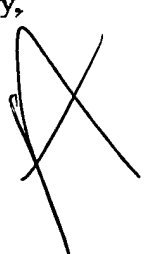
## Appendix 1

For the Examiner's convenience, all of the claims have been reproduced below. Amended and new claims are denoted with (AMENDED) and (NEW), respectively.

NOTE: Underlining denotes added text. Brackets denote deleted text. Amended claims.

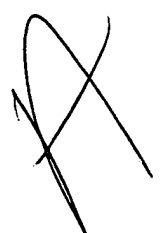
1. (AMENDED) A method for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) generating at least one link to a site on a network;
  - (b) adding the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;
  - (c) categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory; [and]
  - (d) ranking the categorized site in the category;
  - (e) displaying the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
  - (f) displaying an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user; and
  - (g) allowing the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link.
2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of adding the site to the site directory further comprises the steps of: comparing the site to pre-existing sites in the site directory; and generating a notification if the site matches one of the pre-existing sites of the site directory.
3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the steps of: generating a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory; determining whether the site exists in the table of sites; and mapping the site to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of sites.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the step of searching the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites.
5. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the steps of: selecting one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized; comparing the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped; and generating a notification if the selected category does not match the category to which the site is mapped.
6. (AMENDED) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the site is ranked in the category according to a type of ranking based on at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the [generated] links, and polling.
7. (AMENDED) A method as recited in claim [1] 6, further comprising the step of [creating a sub-category into which the site is categorized] allowing a user to specify the type of ranking applied to the category, wherein the sites in the category are displayed according to the user-selected type of ranking.
8. (AMENDED) A method as recited in claim [7] 1, further comprising the [step] steps of creating a sub-category into which the site is categorized; assigning a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; granting the creator of the sub-category at least one privilege selected from a group consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of the site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.
9. (AMENDED) A method as recited in claim [8] 1, [further comprising the step of granting the creator of the sub-category at least one of the privileges consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category,



receiving information transmittals from users of site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category] wherein the information transmittal is selected from a group consisting of: an electronic mail message and an instant message.

10. (AMENDED) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a mode of communication with the category; the mode of communication being selected from a group consisting of: a forum and a chat room.
11. (AMENDED) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising:
  - (a) a code segment that generates at least one link to a site on a network;
  - (b) a code segment that adds the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;
  - (c) a code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory; [and]
  - (d) a code segment that ranks the categorized site in the category according to a type of ranking based on at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the links, and polling; and
  - (e) a code segment that allows a user to specify the type of ranking applied to the category; and
  - (f) a code segment that displays the links in the category according to the user-selected type of ranking.
12. A computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the code segment that adds the site to the site directory further comprises: a code segment that compares the site to pre-existing sites in the site directory; and a code segment that generates a notification if the site matches one of the pre-existing sites of the site directory.
13. A computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises: a code segment that generates a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory; a code segment that determines whether

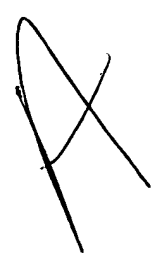


the site exists in the table of sites; and a code segment that maps the site to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of sites.

14. (AMENDED) A computer program as recited in claim [3] 13, wherein the code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises a code segment that searches the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites.
15. (AMENDED) A computer program as recited in claim [3] 13, wherein the code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises: a code segment that selects one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized; a code segment that compares the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped; and a code segment that generates a notification if the selected category does not match the category to which the site is mapped.
16. (AMENDED) A computer program as recited in claim 11, [wherein the site is ranked in the category according to at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the generated links, and polling] further comprising a code segment that displays an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user.
17. (AMENDED) A computer program as recited in claim [11] 16, further comprising a code segment that [creates a sub-category into which the site is categorized] allows the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link, wherein the information transmittal is selected from a group consisting of: an electronic mail message and an instant message.
18. (AMENDED) A computer program as recited in claim [17] 11, further comprising a code segment that creates a sub-category into which the site is categorized; and a code segment that assigns a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category.



19. A computer program as recited in claim 18, further comprising a code segment that grants the creator of the sub-category at least one of the privileges consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.
20. (AMENDED) A system for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising:
- (a) a logic that generates at least one link to a site on a network;
  - (b) a logic that adds the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;
  - (c) a logic that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory; [and]
  - (d) a logic that ranks the categorized site in the category;
  - (e) a logic that displays the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
  - (f) a logic that displays an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user; and
  - (g) a logic that allows the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link.
21. (NEW) A method for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising the steps of:
- (a) generating at least one link to a site on a network;
  - (b) adding the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;
  - (c) comparing the site to pre-existing sites in the site directory;
  - (d) generating a notification if the site matches one of the pre-existing sites of the site directory;
  - (e) categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory, wherein the step of categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the step of:





- i. generating a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory;
  - ii. determining whether the site exists in the table of sites;
  - iii. mapping the site to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of sites;
  - iv. searching the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites;
  - v. selecting one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized;
  - vi. comparing the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped;
  - vii. generating a notification if the selected category does not match the category to which the site is mapped;
- (f) ranking the categorized site in the category, wherein the site is ranked in the category according to a type of ranking based on at least one of: the number of generated links to the site stored in online bookmark accounts, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the links, and polling;
- (g) allowing a user to specify the type of ranking applied to the category, wherein sites in the category are displayed according to the user-selected type of ranking;
- (h) displaying the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
- (i) associating an identity of a creator of the at least one link with the at least one generated link;
- (j) displaying the identity of the creator to a second user upon display of the links to the second user;
- (k) allowing the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link, wherein the information transmittal is selected from a group consisting of: an electronic mail message and an instant message;
- (l) creating a sub-category into which the site is categorized;
- (m) assigning a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category;
- (n) granting the creator of the sub-category at least one privilege selected from a group consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-



- categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category; and
- (o) associating a mode of communication with the category, the mode of communication being selected from a group consisting of: a forum and a chat room.

